

# Consular News

May 2007

Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Port Louis  
(230) 202-4400 or [PTLconsular@state.gov](mailto:PTLconsular@state.gov)

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## Greetings from the Consular Section

The travel season is upon us. As such, the Consular Section expects to be busy issuing visas to those traveling to the U.S. but also anticipates an increase in demand for U.S. passport renewals. We encourage you to check the validity of your U.S. passport and, if necessary, to apply for a renewal early. Currently, passports are taking two to three weeks for processing. For more information, please visit the Embassy's website at <http://mauritius.usembassy.gov>.

Please keep in touch and let us know how we can better serve you.

Best regards,

Your consular team,

Wendy Ryde, Angela Henry, and Travis Jensen (Seychelles)

## Updating our Warden System

In an effort to better prepare ourselves for an emergency or crisis, the Consular Section will be updating our warden system over the coming months. This process will be two-fold. We are looking for volunteer wardens for many of our districts. Please contact us directly if you are interested. The duties involve acting as an all-important liaison with fellow U.S. citizens in your region and, in times of crises, acting as an important link to the U.S. Embassy. The time commitment is minimal but the rewards in terms of serving the community are boundless!

The second part of our update entails the verification of the accuracy of our registration records. You may expect to be contacted by consular personnel to record any changes which may have occurred in your personal information. You may update your online registration at the U.S. State Department's travel registration website:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, which will allow us to fine-tune this very important program.

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*Beat the rush: apply for your U.S. passport renewal today! For more information, please call (230) 202-4400.*

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## Registering with the CLO

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*Contact the Embassy:*

*(230) 202-4400*

*Or*

*[PTLconsular@state.gov](mailto:PTLconsular@state.gov)*

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The Consular Section continues to receive inquiries from American citizens about how they can learn about events the Embassy hosts from time to time (e.g. of July community party, Halloween etc.). Because of strict requirements mandated by the Privacy Act of 1974, the contact information you provided when you registered with the Consular Section is protected and shared only under limited circumstances. Unless you signed a full Privacy Act Waiver, we are not able to share your contact details with the Community Liaison Office (CLO) here at the Embassy. This office notifies the community when social events are being organized and maintains a separate register of U.S. citizens living in Mauritius, Seychelles, and Reunion.

If you are interested in registering with that office, please contact Community Liaison Officer, Henry Semilota, at (230) 202-4459 or via e-mail at [semilotahs@state.gov](mailto:semilotahs@state.gov).

## 2008 Elections – It's not too early to register!

All American citizens living abroad are reminded that 2008 is a general and presidential election year in the United States. Overseas citizens are eligible to participate in presidential and state primary elections, run-off elections and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general elections in November 2008.

We strongly encourage you to register to vote and/or request absentee ballots well in advance of the presidential and state primary elections, which will begin in January 2008, to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Should questions or problems occur, you would still be able to address them in time to vote in the 2008 elections.



The following is the basic absentee voting process:

- You complete an application form (see below) and send it to local election officials in the U.S.
- The local official approves your request, or contacts you for further information
- The local official sends you an absentee ballot
- You vote the ballot and send it back in time to meet your state's deadline

The official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). It has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the downloadable absentee ballot application, state-specific instructions for completing the form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot.